

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 27 of the First Extraordinary Session
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize the dedication of the "Charles C. Sherrod Library" at East Tennessee State University and to memorialize the many contributions made by Dr. Sherrod and his family to the ETSU community.

WHEREAS, on April 9, 1999, the new state-of-the-art library at East Tennessee State University will be dedicated as the "Charles C. Sherrod Library" in honor of the late Dr. Sherrod, the longest serving president in the history of the institution; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sherrod was a scholar and a gentleman who devoted 25 years to the development and prosperity of East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, he was a friendly, outgoing person who knew all of his faculty and their families personally and always evidenced heartfelt concern for their welfare; and

WHEREAS, a native of Knoxville, Charles Chester Sherrod served with distinction as East Tennessee State University's second president from 1925-1949; and

WHEREAS, in 1931, the building that came to be known as Sherrod Library was constructed and, in 1967, the structure was expanded to its present size; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 1949, the faculty of East Tennessee State voted unanimously to name the library building the "Charles C. Sherrod Library"; and

WHEREAS, then in 1968, a Citation of Merit by President D.P. Culp noted "the enduring contributions of Dr. Sherrod by dedicating to his honor and memory the splendid new 1967 library building which was planned and erected on the foundations of his vision"; and

WHEREAS, library development was the cornerstone of Dr. Sherrod's plan to strengthen the school's academic programs; and

WHEREAS, shortly after his inauguration, a fourth year of courses was added to the college's curriculum; and

WHEREAS, in 1927, another of Dr. Sherrod's goals was achieved when East Tennessee State became an accredited member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The next year, the Training School (now University School) was constructed, opening in 1929 with a faculty of master teachers and 300 students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sherrod astutely led East Tennessee State through the trying years of the Great Depression and World War II, including a 1936 attempt by the state legislature to close the school as "an unnecessary luxury," and often fought alone the battle to keep the college operating; and

WHEREAS, during the Depression when state funds were scarce, Dr. Sherrod distributed the funds from a special legislative appropriation among the members of his faculty, (who had not been paid for several months) instead of replacing the leaking roof on the President's Home, the purpose for which such funds were intended; and

WHEREAS, during his administration, the number of students at ETSU grew from 200 to 1,600, the faculty expanded from 25 to 95, and 2,267 students earned four-year degrees; and

WHEREAS, between 1928 and 1938, he oversaw the completion of a \$500,000 building program, including federally funded construction of an amphitheater and stadium; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, he compensated for the loss of male civilian students by inaugurating the school's first military training program for Air Corps cadets; and

WHEREAS, upon his death in 1967, a *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* editorial described Dr. Sherrod as "...an uncommon man, an extraordinary man, by all odds one of the great men of his times. And thus he leaves large footprints on the sands of his time—footprints that will endure through the passing years"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sherrod received two B.S. degrees from Tennessee Normal College (1905 and 1907); L.L.B. and A.B. degrees from Valparaiso University in 1909; an M.A. in 1921 and a Ph.D. in 1924 from George Peabody College in Nashville, and an honorary L.L.D. from Emory and Henry College in 1950; and

WHEREAS, he served as a teacher, a principal, and as superintendent of the public schools of Tennessee from 1902-22, including the superintendency of the Morristown City Schools from 1918-22; and

WHEREAS, he taught for two summers, 1918 and 1920, at East Tennessee State Normal School, and directed the Peabody Demonstration School in Nashville from 1923-25; and

WHEREAS, known throughout the South as "Mr. Accreditation," he was for 22 years Inspector of Colleges applying for membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; and

WHEREAS, he was the author of a book entitled *The Administration of State Colleges*, several bulletins, and numerous magazine articles on education and related subjects; and

WHEREAS, an active member of the Methodist church from the age of 17, Dr. Sherrod was a regular Sunday school teacher for more than 50 years and held many positions in the church and in the Holston Conference. He believed the two forces that "have constantly worked for the betterment of the masses of the human race are universal education and the Christian religion"; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement from East Tennessee State, Dr. Sherrod served with acumen as President of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association in Johnson City for 18 years; and

WHEREAS, when Dr. Sherrod died on February 7, 1967, the university suspended classes to honor his memory, and the faculty extended its sympathy to his "gracious and loyal helpmate," Carrie Lee Hood, whom he married on August 28, 1910, and his children, Mrs. Isa Lee Freeman, who he influenced to become a librarian, Mrs. Wilma Dean Platt, Charles Chester, Jr. and Howell Hood; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sherrod, who during the Depression often wished for more funds to aid students, would have been pleased that his family asked that all memorial contributions be made to a scholarship fund in his name; and

WHEREAS, funding for the new state-of-the-art ETSU library was initially requested by Congressman James H. Quillen, Representative Ralph Cole, Representative Zane Whitson and Senator Rusty Crowe during the final year of Governor Ned McWherter's administration; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who is always true to his word, Governor McWherter kept his promise to these distinguished legislators and included funding for the ETSU library project within the state budget for fiscal year 1994-1995; and

WHEREAS, after Governor McWherter had left office, Congressman Quillen, Senator Crowe, Representative Cole, Representative Whitson, the newly elected Representative Bob Patton and other members of the Northeast Tennessee legislative delegation worked assiduously in cooperation with Governor Don Sundquist to ensure that funding for the ETSU library project remained within the state budget; and

WHEREAS, the entire ETSU community is very proud of the university's new state-of-the-art library, which was artfully constructed by the Powell Building Group under the watchful eye of ETSU President Paul Stanton and Chancellor Charles Smith; and

WHEREAS, the ETSU community firmly believes that the new "Charles C. Sherrod Library" will be instrumental in leading the university into the 21st Century by providing modern research facilities for its students; and

WHEREAS, as the university and all of Northeast Tennessee anxiously awaits this momentous occasion, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should offer their endorsement of the dedication of ETSU's new library in memory of Dr. Sherrod; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby extend our heartiest congratulations to the entire East Tennessee State University community as the university dedicates the new state-of-the-art library facility as the "Charles C. Sherrod Library" on April 9, 1999.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That on this very special occasion, we honor the many valuable contributions that Dr. Sherrod and his family have made to the illustrious history, present prosperity and brilliant future of East Tennessee State University and commemorate Dr. Sherrod's life of purpose and commitment to the greater good.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.